

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07298 270122Z

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SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH TO UNGA.

REF: MEXICO 7233

1. EDITORIALS COMMENTING ON SECRETARY KISSINGER'S REFERENCE TO THE CHARTER OF THE ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF STATES IN HIS ADDRESS BEFORE THE UNGA APPEARED IN MOST OF THE MEXICO CITY DAILIES. COMMENT WAS MOSTLY FAVORABLE. LEFTIST, NATIONLIST EXCELSIOR CHARACTERIZED THE SECRETARY'S COMMENTS AS "GENERAL PRINCIPLES LACKING ANY PRACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE" AND COMMENTED THAT THE DEVELOPING NATIONS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DEMAND ASSISTANCE FROM THE DEVELOPED NATIONS.

2. SEMI-OFFICIAL EL NACIONAL STATED THAT KISSINGER'S COMMENTS, COMING FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MOST POWERFUL STATE IN THE WORLD TODAY, IMPLY A STEP OF ENORMOUS IMPORTANCE IN TERMS OF THE SUCCESS OF MEXICAN PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA'S INITIATIVE. THE EDITORIAL NOTED THE CONDITIONS POSITED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ACTUAL ENDORSEMENT BY THE US OF THE CHARTER BUT OBSERVED THAT ITS SPIRIT IS ONE OF CONCORD AND THAT IT DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO CAUSE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE RICH AND THE POOR. EL NACIONAL CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT THE GOALS OF THE CHARTER ARE NOW CLOSER THAN EVER TO REALITY.

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07298 270122Z

3. MODERATE NOVEDADES COMMENTED THAT US FOREIGN POLICY CONTINUES TO FOLLOW THE SAME SENSIBLE COURSE AS DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS, AS EXEMPLIFIED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER'S SPEECH TO THE UNGA, ESPECIALLY HIS COMMENTS ON THE CHARTER.

4. BUSINESS-ORIENTED EL HERALDO PRAISED THE SECRETARY'S WORDS AS CONSTITUTING THE BEST POSSIBLE ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHARTER, WHICH MEXICANS SHOULD BOAST OF. HIS THOUGHTS ARE EXACTLY WHAT THE CHARTER HAS LACKED UNTIL THE PRESENT: A FORMULA BY WHICH POWERFUL STATES CAN AGREE TO SUPPORT IT.

5. MODERATELY PROGRESSIVE EL UNIVERSAL OBSERVED THAT IF ALL STATES ACT IN ACCORD WITH THE SECRETARY'S SUGGESTIONS, THE UN WILL CREATE A LEGAL INSTRUMENT WHICH WILL AID THE PROGRESS OF ALL NATIONS AND THE CREATION OF WORLD PEACE.

6. CONSERVATE EL SOL DE MEXICO ASSERTED THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT TO THE UNGA WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HASTEN THE ADOPTION OF THE CHARTER BY THAT BODY. IT CAUTIONED THAT THE CHARTER'S INTENT IS NOT TO DIVIDE THE WORLD BUT TO UNITE IT IN A SPIRIT OF EQUALITY AND PEACE.

7. COMMENT: THE MEXICO CITY PRESS HAS ALMOST UNIFOMRLY INTERPRETED THE SECRETARY'S ADDRESS AS AN ENDORSEMENT OF THE CHARTER EVEN THOUGH HE CLEARLY STATED THAT CERTAIN CONDITIONS WOULD HAVE TO BE MET IN ORDER FOR THE US FORMALLY TO ENDORSE IT. ONCE, AGAIN, PUBLIC OPINION IS BEING MANIPULATD IN SUCH A MANNER THAT UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS ARE BEING CREATED WITH REFERENCE TO FUTURE ACTION BY THE US. SELECTIVE MISQUOTATION OF US OFFICIALS WOULD SEEM TO BE A SINE QUA NON FOR THE MEXICAN JOURNALIST AND EDITORIALIST.

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